

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, GA, AO, US

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH GAMBIAN LEADERS ON RECOGNITION OF
ANGOLA AND SOVIET-CUBAN PRESSURE

REF: STATE 038734

DEPT PASS: ABIDJAN, BANJUL, BANGUI, DAR ES SALAAM, KINSHASA,
OIBREVILLE, LUSAKA, RABAT, TUNIS, YAOUNDE

1. SUMMARY. GOTG SUPPORTS GOALS OF EVICTING SOVIET-CUBAN
PRESENCE AND RECONCILING MPLA AND FNLA-UNITA. GAMBIAN
RECOGNITION REFLECTED RADICAL CHANGES ON GROUND. GOTG BELIEVES
RECOGNITION SHOULD HELP IT AND LIKEMINDED COUNTRIES TO EXERT
INFLUENCE ON MPLA TOWARD RECONCILIATION AND WITHDRAWAL OF
FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES, BUT EXPECTS MPLA TO BE HEADY AFTER
MILITARY VICTORY. END SUMMARY.

2. REFTTEL ARRIVED JUST AFTER MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT JAWARA
AND FONMIN NJIE FEB. 18 BUT I WAS ABLE TO MAKE DEMARCHE AS
INSTRUCTED WITH LATTER JUST BEFORE GOTG STATE DINNER FOR MALI
PRESIDENT TRAORE THAT EVENING.

3. NJIE SAID GOTG SHARED USG'S VIEWS ON NEED FOR BOTH EVICTION
OF SOVIET-CUBAN PRESENCE AND RECONCILIATION BETWEEN MPLA AND
FLNA-UNITA. THE GAMBIA'S INFLUENCE WITH OTHER AFRICAN STATES
WAS LIMITED BUT HE WOULD REPORT DEMARCHE TO PRESIDENT JAWARA
AND WORK TOWARD TWIN GOALS WHICH HE FELT SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES

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PAGE 02 DAKAR 01007 192119Z

SHARED. NJIE EXPECTED MPLA REGIME TO BE HEADY AND DIFFICULT

TO DEAL WITH AS RESULT OF ITS MILITARY VICTORY.

4. DURING EARLIER BRIEF MEETING WITH PRESIDENT JAWARA AND FONMIN NJIE, I WAS TOLD GOTG HAD HOPED TO AVOID RECOGNITION OF MPLA REGIME IN ANGOLA BUT RADICAL CHANGES ON GROUND DURING PAST WEEK LED TO DECISION TAKEN FEB. 15. JAWARA SAID WITH MPLA IN DE FACTOR CONTROL OF LARGER PART OF TERRITORY GOTG HAD TAKEN STEP WHICH HE HOPED WOULD PLACE IT, ALONG WITH CERTAIN OTHER OAU STATES WHO FAVORED GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION, IN POSITION TO EXERT INFLUENCE ON MPLA TOWARD RECONCILIATION OF MPLA WITH FLNA AND UNITA. JAWARA ALSO HOPED THAT RECOGNITION WOULD LEAD TO WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES.

5. JAWARA'S STATEMENT ON ANGOLA FOLLOWED MY ORAL PRESENTATION OF USG'S GOOD WISHES ON INDEPENDENT GAMBIA'S 11TH BIRTHDAY AND JAWARA'S WARM PRAISE FOR QUALITY OF U.S. CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION DURING PAST YEAR.
AGGREY

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